



108

# Greatest Of All Times

*globally selected  
PERSONALITIES*

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Compiled by:

Prof Dr S Ramalingam

29 Aug 1958 <::><::><::> 25 Jun 2009

*"When I see children, I see the  
face of God. That's why I love them  
so much. That's what I see."*

*- Michael Jackson*



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## List of Awards & Nominations

# Michael Jackson

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_awards\\_and\\_nominations\\_received\\_by\\_Michael\\_Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Michael_Jackson)

### Michael Jackson

### Awards and Nominations



Jackson being presented with an award by US President Ronald Reagan for his work against drunk driving at a White House ceremony in 1984

Awards and Nominations		
Award	Wins	Nominations
<u>American Music Awards</u>	26	41
<u>Billboard Music Awards</u> (before and after 1990)	40	42
<u>Blockbuster Entertainment Awards</u>	1	1
<u>Bravo Ottos</u>	13	13
<u>BMI Urban Awards</u>	2	2
<u>Brit Awards</u>	6	7
<u>Echo Awards</u>	2	3
<u>Grammy Awards</u>	13	38
<u>Juno Awards</u>	1	6
<u>MTV EMAs</u>	1	5
<u>MTV MMAs</u>	1	1

<a href="#">MTV VMAs</a>	5	19
<a href="#">NAACP Image Awards</a>	10	16
<a href="#">NRJ Music Awards</a>	2	2
<a href="#">People's Choice Awards</a>	4	6
<a href="#">Rockbjörnen</a>	2	2
<a href="#">Rock and Roll Hall of Fame</a>	2	2
<a href="#">Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame</a>	1	1
<a href="#">Soul Train</a>	11	22
<a href="#">World Music Awards</a>	12	13

[Michael Jackson](#) (1958–2009) was an American singer. He debuted on the professional music scene at the age of 5, as a member of [The Jackson 5](#), and began a solo career in 1971 while still a member of the group in subsequent years. Referred to as the "[King of Pop](#)", Michael Jackson is considered to be the greatest entertainer of all time and one of the most influential figures of the 20th century.

Jackson's career [was rewarded](#) with 13 [Grammy Awards](#), as well as the [Grammy Legend Award](#) and [Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award](#); 6 [Brit Awards](#), 40 [Billboard Music Awards](#) (before and after 1990) and 26 [American Music Awards](#). He currently holds 28 [Guinness World Records](#) out of a total of 36 records set in his lifetime, The organization also recognized Jackson as the world's most successful entertainer in 2006. He's a member of the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#), becoming one of only a few artists to be inducted twice (he was inducted in 1997 as a member of [The Jackson 5](#) and again as a solo artist in 2001). Jackson was also inducted into the [National Museum of Dance and Hall of Fame](#), making him the first and currently, only recording artist to be inducted. He was also inducted into the [Songwriters Hall of Fame](#). Jackson was also inducted in 2014 into the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame along with his father Joe Jackson.

In 1984, Jackson was approached to donate "[Beat It](#)" as backing music for a commercial on [drunk driving](#). Jackson agreed and it was arranged for the singer to be awarded with an honor from the [President of the United States, Ronald Reagan](#). In April 1990, Jackson returned to the White House to be recognized as "Artist of the Decade" by President [George H. W. Bush](#). Two years later, on May 1, 1992, President Bush presented Jackson with an award acknowledging him as "a point of light ambassador". Jackson received

the award in recognition for his efforts in inviting disadvantaged children to his [Neverland Ranch](#). Jackson was the only entertainer to receive the award. He has two [Primetime Emmy Award](#) nominations in 1983 and 1990. In 2000, Jackson was honored as the Artist of the Millennium at the world music awards and credited as the best-selling solo artist of all time.



# Michael Jackson

## Video Vanguard Award

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Jackson\\_Video\\_Vanguard\\_Award](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Jackson_Video_Vanguard_Award)

Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award	
Awarded for	Outstanding contributions and influence on music video and popular culture
Country	United States
Presented by	<a href="#">MTV</a>
Formerly called	Video Vanguard Award Lifetime Achievement Award
First award	1984
Final award	2024
Most recent winner(s)	<a href="#">Katy Perry</a> (2024)
Website	<a href="#">VMA website</a>

The **Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award**, is a merit given to [recording artists](#) and [music video directors](#) at the [MTV Video Music Awards](#) (VMAs), a ceremony that was established in 1984. It is presented by [MTV](#) for "outstanding contributions" and "profound impact" on music videos and popular culture. As the ceremony's special category, the [trophy](#) is a gold-plated "moonman" rather than the silver ones of the other VMA categories. [The Beatles](#) and director [Richard Lester](#) were honored with the Video Vanguard Award at the [inaugural VMAs](#) for "essentially inventing the music video." [David Bowie](#) also received the award at the same ceremony. Two years later, [Madonna](#) became the first female recipient. In 1991, the award was renamed after [Michael Jackson](#), who had previously won the 1988 trophy.




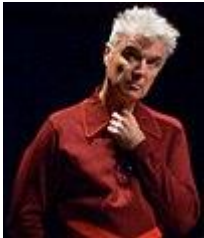
It was presented as the Lifetime Achievement Award at the [2003 VMAs](#) to [Duran Duran](#), and in 2006 as the Video Vanguard Award to director [Hype Williams](#). Following Jackson's death, the award returned with his name restored in 2011. According to MTV, his name was attached to the award due to "Jackson's groundbreaking work as a video artist". This naming again caused controversy after the release of [Leaving Neverland](#) (2019), a documentary about alleged [child sexual abuse](#) by Jackson. As in previous ceremonies, MTV did not explicitly display Jackson's name on the television broadcast of the [2019 VMAs](#), although its website MTV.com still called it Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. The year's recipient, [Missy Elliott](#), did mention Jackson in her speech, as did [Nicki Minaj](#) in her 2022 speech. [Katy Perry](#) is the most recent recipient of the award at the [2024 MTV Video Music Awards](#).

Since its inception, the Video Vanguard Award has been awarded to 35 acts, with most of them being of [American](#) or [British](#) origin, except [Russell Mulcahy](#) (1985, [Australian](#)), [Zbigniew Rybczyński](#) (1986, [Polish](#)), [U2](#) (2001, [Irish](#)), [Rihanna](#) (2016, [Barbadian](#)), [Nicki Minaj](#) (2022, [Trinidadian](#)), and [Shakira](#) (2023, [Colombian](#)). Out of all the winners, nine acts have also won the VMAs' biggest prize, [Video of the Year](#), including [Peter Gabriel](#) and [Justin Timberlake](#), who both earned the two awards in the same night. Since 2013, recipients have been invited to perform a medley of hits leading up to their acceptance speech.

## **Recipients**







## Key

★ Indicates Video of the Year winners






Year	Image	Recipient	Nationality	Notes
1984		The Beatles	United Kingdom	Presented by the <a href="#">Police</a> members <a href="#">Andy Summers</a> and <a href="#">Stewart Copeland</a> . The Beatles and Richard Lester, director of <i>A Hard Day's Night</i> (1964) and <i>Help!</i> (1965), were honored for "essentially inventing the music video."
		Richard Lester	United States	
		David Bowie	United Kingdom	Presented by <a href="#">Herbie Hancock</a> .
1985		David Byrne	United Kingdom	Presented by <a href="#">Chrissie Hynde</a> . Byrne was honored for his work with <a href="#">Talking Heads</a> .
	—	Russell Mulcahy	Australia	Presented by <a href="#">John Taylor</a> and <a href="#">Andy Taylor</a> . Mulcahy was the director of <a href="#">The Buggles'</a> "Video Killed the Radio Star", the first video played on MTV.








		Godley & Creme	United Kingdom	Presented by Herbie Hancock.
1986		Madonna *	United States	Presented by Robert Palmer. Madonna became the first woman to receive the honor. She later won the Video of the Year for "Ray of Light" in 1998.
		Zbigniew Rybczyński	Poland	Presented by Pet Shop Boys.
1987		Peter Gabriel *	United Kingdom	Presented by Laurie Anderson. Gabriel also won the Video of the Year for "Sledgehammer" on the same night.
		Julien Temple	United Kingdom	Presented by David Bowie.
1988		Michael Jackson	United States	Presented by Peter Gabriel. Jackson was the first African-American artist to receive the honor.


1989		George Michael	United Kingdom	Presented by Madonna.
1990		Janet Jackson	United States	Presented by Magic Johnson. Jackson remains the youngest person to receive the honor at 24 years old.
1991		Bon Jovi	United States	Presented by Arsenio Hall. The honor was renamed the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award.
		Wayne Ishaam	United States	
1992		Guns N' Roses	United States	Presented by Queen members Brian May and Roger Taylor.
1993				
1994		The Rolling Stones	United Kingdom	Presented by Jann Wenner. Given as the Lifetime Achievement Award.



		Tom Petty	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Billy Corgan</a> .
1995		R.E.M. *	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Drew Barrymore</a> . R.E.M. previously won the Video of the Year for " <a href="#">Losing My Religion</a> " in 1991.
1996				
1997		LL Cool J	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Mariah Carey</a> . LL Cool J became the first hip-hop rapper to receive the honor.
		Mark Romanek	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Janet Jackson</a> .
1998		Beastie Boys	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Chuck D</a> .
1999				

2000		Red Hot Chili Peppers	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Chris Rock</a> and <a href="#">Lance Crouther</a>
2001		U2	Ireland	Presented by <a href="#">Carson Daly</a> .
2002				
2003		Duran Duran	United Kingdom	Presented by <a href="#">Kelly Osbourne</a> and <a href="#">Avril Lavigne</a> . Given as the Lifetime Achievement Award.
2004				
2005				
2006	—	<a href="#">Hype Williams</a>	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Kanye West</a> . Given as the Video Vanguard Award.
2007				
2008				
2009				
2010				
2011		<a href="#">Britney Spears</a> *	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Lady Gaga</a> . The award was renamed again to the Michael Jackson Video Vanguard Award. Spears previously won the Video of the

				Year for " <a href="#">Piece of Me</a> " in 2008.
<b>2012</b>				
<b>2013</b>		<a href="#">Justin Timberlake</a> *	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Jimmy Fallon</a> . Timberlake also won the Video of the Year for " <a href="#">Mirrors</a> " on the same night.
<b>2014</b>		<a href="#">Beyoncé</a> *	United States	Presented by her husband <a href="#">Jay-Z</a> and daughter <a href="#">Blue Ivy Carter</a> . Beyoncé won the Video of the Year twice, for " <a href="#">Single Ladies</a> " in 2009 and " <a href="#">Formation</a> " in 2016.
<b>2015</b>		<a href="#">Kanye West</a>	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Taylor Swift</a> .
<b>2016</b>		<a href="#">Rihanna</a> *	<a href="#">Barbados</a>	Presented by <a href="#">Drake</a> . Rihanna previously won the Video of the Year twice, for " <a href="#">Umbrella</a> " in 2007 and " <a href="#">We Found Love</a> " in 2012.
<b>2017</b>		<a href="#">P!nk</a> *	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Ellen DeGeneres</a> . P!nk previously won the Video of the Year for " <a href="#">Lady Marmalade</a> " in 2001.

2018		Jennifer Lopez	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Shawn Mendes</a> . Lopez became the first <a href="#">ethnic Latin</a> artist to receive the honor. Lopez was later the recipient of the <a href="#">MTV Generation Award</a> at the <a href="#">2022 MTV Movie &amp; TV Awards</a> , becoming the first entertainer to receive both honors from MTV.
2019		Missy Elliott *	United States	Presented by <a href="#">Cardi B</a> . Elliott previously won the Video of the Year for " <a href="#">Work It</a> " in 2003. She became the first female rapper to receive the honor.
2020				
2021				
2022		Nicki Minaj	Trinidad and Tobago	Presented by members of her <a href="#">fan club</a> "The Barbz". Minaj also won the award for Best Hip Hop for her song " <a href="#">Do We Have a Problem</a> " along with <a href="#">Lil Baby</a> during the same ceremony.
2023		Shakira	Colombia	Presented by <a href="#">Wyclef Jean</a> . Shakira is the first <a href="#">South American</a> artist to receive the honor.
2024		Katy Perry *	United States	Presented by Perry's partner, <a href="#">Orlando Bloom</a> . Perry previously won the Video of the Year for " <a href="#">Firework</a> " in 2011.

# Michael Jackson

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Jackson)

## Michael Jackson



Jackson in 1988

<b>Born</b>	Michael Joseph Jackson
	August 29, 1958 <a href="#">Gary, Indiana</a> , US
<b>Died</b>	June 25, 2009 (aged 50) Los Angeles, California, US
<b>Cause of death</b>	<a href="#">Cardiac arrest</a> caused by acute propofol intoxication
<b>Burial place</b>	<a href="#">Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California</a> , US
<b>Other names</b>	Michael Joe Jackson

<b>Occupations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Singer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">songwriter</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">dancer</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">philanthropist</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">record producer</a></li> </ul>
<b>Spouses</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Lisa Marie Presley</a></li> </ul> <p>(m. 1994; div. 1996)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Debbie Rowe</a></li> </ul> <p>(m. 1996; div. 2000)</p>
<b>Children</b>	3
<b>Parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Joe Jackson</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Katherine Jackson</a></li> </ul>
<b>Family</b>	<a href="#">Jackson family</a>
<b>Awards</b>	<a href="#">Full list</a>
	<b>Musical career</b>
<b>Genres</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Pop</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">soul</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">R&amp;B</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">funk</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">rock</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">disco</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">post-disco</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">dance-pop</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">new jack swing</a></li> </ul>
<b>Instrument</b>	Vocals
<b>Discography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Albums</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">singles</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">songs</a></li> </ul>
<b>Years active</b>	1964–2009
<b>Labels</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Steeltown</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Motown</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Epic</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Legacy</a></li> </ul>



- [Sony](#)
- MJJ Productions

Formerly of [The Jackson 5](#)

Website [michaeljackson.com](http://michaeljackson.com)

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MJ', with a stylized, flowing script.

**Michael Joseph Jackson** (August 29, 1958 - June 25, 2009) was an American singer, songwriter, dancer, and philanthropist. Dubbed the "King of Pop", he is regarded as [one of the most significant figures of the 20th century](#). Over a four-decade career, [his world record music achievements](#) broke [racial barriers in America](#) and made him a global figure. Through songs, stages, and fashion, he proliferated visual performance for artists in [popular music](#); popularizing street dance moves including the [moonwalk](#) (which he named), the [robot](#), and the [anti-gravity lean](#). Jackson is often deemed the greatest entertainer of all time based on his acclaim and records.

The eighth child of the [Jackson family](#), Michael made his public debut in 1964 at age six, as a member of [the Jackson 5](#) (later known as the Jacksons). After signing with [Motown](#) in 1968, the band achieved worldwide success with him as its lead singer. Jackson achieved solo stardom with the release of his fifth album [Off the Wall](#) (1979). He followed it up with [Thriller](#) (1982), the [best-selling album of all time](#), which propelled him to the forefront of [pop culture](#) and revolutionized the [music video](#) medium with the videos for [its title track](#) along with "[Beat It](#)" and "[Billie Jean](#)". Jackson furthered his position as a global superstar with [Bad](#) (1987), the first album to produce five US [Billboard Hot 100](#) number-one singles: "[I Just Can't Stop Loving You](#)", "[Bad](#)", "[The Way You Make Me Feel](#)", "[Man in the Mirror](#)", and "[Dirty Diana](#)". [Dangerous](#) (1991) marked a new era for Jackson, lauded as his most artistic and socially conscious album. [HIStory](#) (1995) produced "[You Are Not Alone](#)", the first song to debut at number one on the US [Billboard Hot 100](#), as well as the [protest songs](#) "[Earth Song](#)" and "[They Don't Care About Us](#)". His final album, [Invincible](#), was released in 2001.

From the late 1980s, Jackson became a figure of controversy and speculation due to [his changing appearance](#), [relationships](#), behavior, and lifestyle. He was [accused of sexually abusing](#) the child of a family friend in 1993. In 2005, Jackson [was tried and acquitted](#) of further child sexual abuse allegations and all other charges. While preparing for a series of comeback concerts, [This Is It](#), Jackson [died](#) in 2009 from an overdose of [propofol](#) administered by his personal physician [Conrad Murray](#), who was [convicted in 2011](#) of [involuntary manslaughter](#). Jackson's death triggered reactions around the world, creating unprecedented surges of internet traffic and a spike in sales of his music. [His televised memorial service](#), held at the [Staples Center](#) in Los Angeles, was estimated to have been viewed by more than 2.5 billion people.

Jackson is one of the [best-selling music artists of all time](#), with estimated sales of over 500 million records worldwide.<sup>[nb 1]</sup> He had 13 [Billboard Hot 100 number-one singles](#) ([the fourth-highest in Hot 100 history](#)) and is the first artist to have a top-ten single on the *Billboard* Hot 100 in five different decades. Jackson's inductions include the [Rock and Roll Hall of Fame](#) (twice), the [National Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame](#), the [Vocal Group Hall of Fame](#), the [Songwriters Hall of Fame](#) and the [Dance Hall of Fame](#) (making him the only recording artist to be inducted). As one of the most-awarded artists in popular music, he received 13 [Grammy Awards](#), the [Grammy Legend Award](#), and the [Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award](#), 26 [American Music Awards](#), including the Artist of the Century and Artist of the 1980s, six [Brit Awards](#), three [presidential honors](#) including Artist of the Decade, the [Bambi](#) Pop Artist of the Millennium Award, and 12 [World Music Awards](#) including the [Millennium Award](#), among [other awards](#). In 1992, Jackson founded [Heal the World Foundation](#), donating an estimated \$500 million to charity [throughout his lifetime](#). In 2024, half of [his music catalogue](#) sold to Sony for \$600 million, the [largest music acquisition](#) for a single artist in history.



# 1993 Sexual Abuse Allegations

## Michael Jackson

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993\\_Michael\\_Jackson\\_sexual\\_abuse\\_allegations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1993_Michael_Jackson_sexual_abuse_allegations)

American singer [Michael Jackson](#) first faced allegations of [child sexual abuse](#) in 1993. Evan Chandler, a dentist and screenwriter based in [Los Angeles](#), accused Jackson of sexually abusing Chandler's 13-year-old son, Jordan. Jackson had befriended Jordan after renting a vehicle from Jordan's stepfather. Though Evan initially encouraged the friendship, he later confronted his ex-wife, who had custody of Jordan, with suspicions that the relationship was inappropriate.

Chandler demanded money from Jackson, threatening to go to a criminal court, but no agreement was reached. After Jordan told a [psychiatrist](#) that Jackson had molested him, the [Los Angeles Police Department](#) began a criminal investigation. The investigation found no physical evidence against Jackson. In August 1993, as the second leg of Jackson's [Dangerous World Tour](#) began, news of the allegations broke and received worldwide media attention. Jackson canceled the remainder of the tour, citing health problems arising from the scandal. Jackson's sister [La Toya Jackson](#) said Jackson was a pedophile, but produced no evidence and withdrew the accusation, saying she had been forced to make it by her husband.

In September 1993, the Chandlers filed a lawsuit against Jackson. They and Jackson reached a financial settlement in January 1994; Jackson and his legal team stressed that this was not an admission of guilt. In September 1994, the investigation closed after the Chandlers declined to cooperate, leaving the case without its main witness.

The allegations damaged Jackson's public image, health, and commercial standing. Several of his endorsement deals were canceled, including his decade-long [Pepsi](#) endorsement. Further allegations of abuse by Jackson led to the [People v. Jackson](#) trial in 2005, in which Jackson was acquitted.

### **TIMELINE of the allegations between the Chandler family and Michael Jackson**

- July 8, 1993 – David Schwartz tapes a couple of long telephone conversations he had with Evan Chandler in which Chandler threatens to "destroy" Jackson's career with the help of a carefully planned plot and people who are only waiting for his phone call to set everything in motion if the star refuses to communicate with him and refuses to give him what he wants.

- July 9, 1993 – [Anthony Pellicano](#) meets Jordan in Jackson's Century City condo without the singer being present. He asks the boy very specific questions about whether he has ever been molested or inappropriately touched by Jackson. Chandler denies all accusations.
- July 14–15, 1993 – Chandler's lawyer calls Beverly Hills psychiatrist Dr. Mathis Abrams and presents him with a hypothetical situation. In reply and without having met either Jordan Chandler or his parents, Abrams sends Rothman a two-page letter in which he states that "reasonable suspicion would exist that sexual abuse may have occurred".
- July 16, 1993 – After receiving the letter from psychiatrist Dr. Abrams, Evan Chandler allegedly receives a confession from his son detailing abuse from Jackson.
- August 4, 1993 – Evan Chandler seeks a \$20 million settlement in return for not suing without informing law enforcement agencies of the abuse that he later claimed to have taken place. Jackson however refuses to pay and in late August sues Evan for extortion.
- August 9–13, 1993 – Evan Chandler and his legal team make various counter offers hoping to secure a payment from Jackson, prior to public accusations of sexual abuse.
- August 17, 1993 – Jordan Chandler is the first to tell a psychiatrist about sexual assault, which is reported to Child Welfare Services and prosecutor [Thomas W. Sneddon Jr.](#) begins an investigation.
- August 24, 1993 – After being rejected of various offers from Jackson and his legal team, the Chandler's accusations towards Jackson are made public.
- August 27, 1993 – Prosecutors raid Neverland Ranch and other places of residency while Jackson was on tour, but no leads were found as the investigators ruled that there was no medical evidence or physical evidence. Additionally hundreds of children were investigated but all of them stated no abuse or improper behavior had taken place.
- September 1993 – Evan Chandler files a civil suit demanding \$30 million from Jackson due to alleged damages and harm caused towards himself and his family.
- November 1993 – Jackson requests that the civil trial be postponed until after the Criminal hearing is completed due to a violation of his [civil rights](#), under the circumstances of having to defend himself under [double jeopardy](#). This motion was denied.
- December 1993 – Prosecutor Tom Sneddon files a strip search on Jackson based on the drawing obtained by Jordan Chandler, however the drawing does not match and prosecutors sought out Jackson's doctors and family inquiring about the possibility the singer had altered his genitals as to explain the mismatch.
- January 25, 1994 – The civil lawsuit is settled out of court between Jackson and the Chandler family. The total amount paid to the Chandlers is \$15,331,250, The document shows that the Chandlers dropped the child molestation allegations from their complaint with Jackson's settlement being filed over claims of negligence. It was later revealed that this

settlement did not prevent the Chandlers from testifying in the criminal case.

- January–June 1994 – The prosecution continues to investigate Jackson, Jordan continues to cooperate with the criminal investigation. By the end of this period multiple grand juries had been called however jurors remarked that no damaging evidence was heard against Jackson. "The [Santa Barbara] grand jury in Michael Jackson's case was dismissed and one juror said he heard no evidence against [Jackson]... Another juror told CNN that he heard no evidence against him [Jackson] during the hearing."
- August 1994 – The prosecution questions whether or not to continue with the criminal investigation into Jackson as FBI documents detail that at the time they still had not produced any clues regarding potential abuse or criminal activity on his behalf.
- September 1994 – After a year, with over 400 witnesses called during the initial investigation and 30 more later in front of grand juries, the investigation was closed. A few potential leads were found, but all turned out to be false.

## Background



**Jackson's Neverland Ranch home, where the sexual abuse was alleged to have taken place**

According to [\*Consequence of Sound\*](#), in 1993, Jackson was the most popular singer in the world. That February, Jackson's car broke down and was towed to a local garage, [\*Rent-a-Wreck\*](#). Rent-a-Wreck owner David Schwartz called his wife, June Chandler-Schwartz, to meet Jackson. She brought her son from a previous marriage, Jordan Chandler. Jordan's father, Evan Chandler, was a dentist who treated Hollywood celebrities. He was also a screenwriter who co-wrote the 1993 comedy [\*Robin Hood: Men In Tights\*](#).

Jackson and Jordan became close; the [\*National Enquirer\*](#) ran a featured story titled "Michael's New Adopted Family", implying that Jackson had "stolen" Jordan from Evan. Jackson invited Jordan, his stepsister and his mother to visit his home, [\*Neverland Ranch\*](#), on the weekends. They would also take trips to Las Vegas and Florida. These trips interfered with Jordan's scheduled visits with Evan, with Jordan preferring to visit Neverland Ranch.



In May, Evan encouraged Jackson to spend more time with Jordan. Evan suggested that Jackson should build an extension onto Jackson's house; when they were denied [planning permission](#), Chandler suggested Jackson buy him a house. In the same month, Jordan and June flew with Jackson to Monaco for the [World Music Awards](#). According to June's lawyer, Michael Freeman, Evan was jealous and felt left out. Upon their return, Jackson stayed in the Schwartz-Chandler home for five days; Jackson slept in a room with Jordan and his stepbrother. Chandler said this is when he became suspicious of sexual misconduct by Jackson, although he said that Jackson and Jordan were clothed when he saw them in bed together, and never claimed to have witnessed sexual misconduct. Jordan and Jackson's contact ended in June 1993.

## **Allegations**

On July 8, 1993, Schwartz phoned Evan to discuss Jordan's relationship with Jackson. Unbeknownst to Evan, Schwartz recorded the phone call. Chandler was hostile about Jackson, describing him as "evil". He said he had hired "the nastiest son of a bitch he could find", the lawyer Barry Rothman, to humiliate Jackson, and said:

Once I make that phone call, this guy's just going to destroy everybody in site in any devious, nasty, cruel way that he can do it. And I've given him full authority to do that. ... If I go through with this, I win big time. There's no way that I lose. ... I will get everything I want, and they will be totally—they will be destroyed forever. ... Michael's career will be over. ... This man is gonna be humiliated beyond belief. ... He will not believe what's going to happen to him. Beyond his worst nightmares. He will not sell one more record.

*—Evan Chandler, Excerpt from taped telephone conversation between Chandler and David Schwartz (1993)*

When Schwartz asked how this would affect Jordan, Chandler replied:

It's irrelevant to me. The bottom line to me is, yes, June is harming him, and Michael is harming him. I can prove that. ... It cost me thousands, tens of thousands of dollars to get the information I got, and I—you know I don't have that kind of money and I spent it, and I'm willing to spend more, and I'm willing to go down financially...

*—Evan Chandler, Excerpt from taped telephone conversation between Chandler and David Schwartz (1993)*

On August 2, Chandler extracted one of Jordan's teeth. While Jordan was under the effects of [Amytal](#), a sedative with hypnotic properties, Evan asked him if Jackson had ever touched his penis; Jordan said yes. Chandler and his legal team approached Jackson asking for \$20 million, threatening to take the dispute to a criminal court. A few weeks later, Jackson's legal team made a counter-offer of \$1 million; this was declined by Chandler, who then requested \$15 million. Jackson refused and lowered his offer to \$350,000, which Chandler also refused. According to some sources, Evan unsuccessfully sought a \$20-million film production deal with Jackson to avoid going to court.



On July 15, the child psychiatrist Mathis Abrams wrote to Rothman, who was seeking an expert opinion to help establish the allegations against Jackson. Abrams wrote that there was "reasonable suspicion" of sexual abuse without having met Evan, Jordan or Jackson. He also said that, if this were not a hypothetical case, he would be required by law to report the matter to the Los Angeles County Department of Children's Services. On August 17, Evan took Jordan to Abrams and told him Jordan had been molested. Over a three-hour session, Jordan told Abrams that Jackson had sexually abused him for months and gave graphic accounts of masturbation and oral sex. Jordan repeated these allegations to police and described Jackson's penis. According to the county's [DCFS](#) reports, Jordan had difficulty remembering the times and dates of his alleged molestation, but was consistent in his story.

## Investigation

On August 18, the [Los Angeles Police Department's](#) Sexually Exploited Child Unit began a criminal investigation into Jackson. June Chandler-Schwartz initially told police that she did not believe Jackson had molested her son; however, her position wavered a few days later. On August 21, a search warrant was issued, allowing police to search Neverland Ranch. Police questioned 30 children who were friends of Jackson; all stated that he was not a child molester. Gary Hearne, Jackson's chauffeur, testified in his deposition to driving Jackson to Jordan's house at night and collecting him in the morning for a period of about 30 days.

On August 24, the day the allegations were made public, Jackson began the third leg of his [Dangerous World Tour](#) in Bangkok. That day, [Anthony Pellicano](#), a private detective hired by Jackson, held a press conference accusing Chandler of trying to extort \$20 million from Jackson. He did not mention that Jackson had made several counter-offers. The [Jackson family](#) also held a press conference, saying it was their "unequivocal belief" that Michael was a victim of extortion. On August 26, Jackson's promoters released an audiotape of him apologizing to his fans for cancelling his second show in two days.

On August 31, the attorney [Gloria Allred](#) held a press conference stating she had been retained on behalf of the Chandlers, and implied a civil suit against Jackson would be made. On September 10, Allred said that she was off the case, without saying why. On September 13, the Chandlers hired Larry R. Feldman, the former president of the [Los Angeles County Bar Association](#).

On October 6, 1993, Jordan Chandler underwent a [psychiatric interview](#) with [Dr. Richard Gardner](#) in New York. Dr. Gardner had formulated [Parental Alienation Syndrome](#) (PAS) in 1985, a disorder that arises primarily in the context of child-custody disputes. Jordan gave his account of what allegedly happened between him and Jackson in May 1993, during their trip to Monaco for the World Music Awards. On November 8, police searched the Jackson family home, [Hayvenhurst](#).

The Schwartzes gave the tape of Chandler's July conversation with Schwartz to the authorities, who leaked it to the press. The recorded conversation was a critical aspect of Jackson's [defense](#) against the allegations made against him. Jackson and his supporters argued that he was the victim of a jealous father whose only goal was to

extort Jackson. The tape was publicly released by Pellicano, after edits had been made.

### **Testimony from staff and other children**

Brett Barnes, aged 11, publicly said he had shared a bed with Jackson, but insisted there was no sexual abuse: "I was on one side of the bed and he was on the other. It was a big bed." The dancer and choreographer [Wade Robson](#), then aged 10, told [Fox Television](#) that he too shared a bed with Jackson but that nothing sexual had happened. Several parents complained of aggressive investigative techniques by police; they claimed the police frightened their children with lies such as "we have nude photos of you", and told parents their children had been molested even though their children had denied it.

In September 1993, police officers traveled to the Philippines to interview two of Jackson's ex-housekeepers. However, the ex-employees lacked credibility due to a back salary argument they had with Jackson. A former security guard made various allegations about Jackson, saying he had been fired because he "knew too much", and alleged that he was ordered by Jackson to destroy a photo of a naked boy. Instead of reporting this alleged event to the police, he sold the story to [Hard Copy](#) for \$150,000. On December 13, 1993, Jackson's maid, Blanca Francia, alleged that she "quit in disgust" after seeing Jackson in a shower with a child, but did not inform the police. Lisa D. Campbell reported that Francia had been fired in 1991 and had sold her story to *Hard Copy* for \$20,000. However, when Diane Dimond interviewed Francia on the show, she denied being fired but acknowledged being compensated by *Hard Copy*.

On December 2, 1993, attorney Charles Mathews held a press conference about his clients allegedly being threatened and harassed by Pellicano's machinations. Mathews was representing Jackson's former security guards in a wrongful termination lawsuit filed on November 22. The lawsuit alleged wrongful termination due to "firsthand personal knowledge of many of [Michael Jackson's] nighttime visits with young boys".

### **Investigation into Chandler**

The police also began an investigation into Evan Chandler for extortion, finding that he was \$68,400 behind in his [child support](#) payments despite being well-paid as a dentist. Following a five-month investigation, deputy Los Angeles County District Attorney Michael Montagna released a public statement stating no charges had been brought against Chandler, citing Jackson's lawyers' failure to file for extortion in a timely manner and Jackson's willingness to negotiate with Chandler for several weeks. Montagna explained that settlements were encouraged as they were favored by the law. Montagna also said the discussions between Jackson's representatives and Barry K. Rothman, Chandler's attorney at that time, appeared to have been attempts to settle a possible civil case, not efforts to extort money. Pellicano vehemently rejected that the discussion was to settle a civil claim, noting that no lawsuit was mentioned and Chandler's lawyer threatened if they don't get what they want they will go public with accusations.

### **Use of sedatives**

Chandler admitted he had used the sedative [sodium amytal](#) during Jordan's dental surgery, during which Jordan said Jackson had touched his penis. Sodium amytal is a [barbiturate](#) that puts people in a [hypnotic](#) state when injected [intravenously](#). Studies carried out in 1952 demonstrated that it enabled [false memories](#) to be implanted. According to Alison Winter, a science historian at the [University of Chicago](#), these types of drug place people in a state of "extreme suggestibility ... People will pick up on cues about what questioners want to hear and repeat that back."

Mark Torbiner, the dental [anesthesiologist](#) who administered the drug, told [GQ](#) that if sodium amytal was used, "it was for dental purposes". According to [Diane Dimond](#) of the tabloid TV program *Hard Copy*, Torbiner's records show that [Robinul](#) and [Vistaril](#) were administered instead of sodium amytal. The [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](#) was investigating Torbiner's administration of drugs during house calls, where he mostly gave patients [morphine](#) and [Demerol](#). Torbiner's credentials with the Board of Dental Examiners indicated that he was restricted by law to administering drugs solely for dental procedures, but he had not adhered to those restrictions; for example, he had given [general anesthetic](#) to Barry Rothman during hair transplant procedures. Torbiner had introduced Chandler and Rothman in 1991, when Rothman needed dental work.

### **Strip search**

On February 10, 1993, Jackson had revealed in a televised interview that he had [vitiligo](#), a skin disorder that destroys skin pigmentation and creates blotches. The interview was watched by 90 million viewers, and after it aired expert information on vitiligo was widely shared in the media. According to Pellicano, Jordan Chandler said in July 1993 that Jackson once lifted his shirt to show the blotches on his skin.

On December 20, 1993, investigators for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department and the LAPD issued Jackson with a [warrant](#) for a [strip search](#), as police wanted to verify Jordan's description of Jackson's private anatomy. The officers photographed Jackson's entire body. The police were looking for discoloration, any signs of vitiligo that Jordan had spoken about, or any other skin disorder. Refusal to comply would have been used in court as an indication of guilt.

Those present for the prosecution were District Attorney [Tom Sneddon](#), a detective, a photographer, and a doctor. Those present on behalf of Jackson were his two attorneys, a physician, a detective, a bodyguard, and a photographer. The attorneys and Sneddon agreed to leave the room when the examination took place. At Jackson's insistence, the prosecution detective also left. In an emotional state, Jackson stood on a platform in the middle of the room and disrobed. The search lasted for approximately 25 minutes. He was never touched.

On January 27, 1994, [Reuters](#) reported that an unidentified source had told that the pictures did not match Jordan's description. According to the LAPD detective and pedophilia expert Bill Dworin, who spoke to [NBC News](#) in February 2003, Jordan's description matched the photos of Jackson's genitalia. Dworin did not believe that Jordan's accusations were coached. The DA and the sheriff's photographer stated that the description was accurate, but the jurors felt that the photos did not match the

description. Jordan claimed that Jackson was circumcised; however, Jackson's autopsy report showed that he had not been circumcised. In March 1994, Jackson's mother, [Katherine](#), was called to testify in front of the LA County Grand Jury. Investigators asked whether her son changed his appearance so that it does not match the accuser's description.

On January 4, 1994, Larry Feldman filed a court motion in an effort to obtain the police photographs of Jackson. The motion stated a "multiple choice" request: either provide copies of the photographs, submit Jackson to a second search, or the court could bar the photographs from the civil trial as evidence. Feldman said that the district attorney's office previously refused the request of these photographs. Jackson's lawyers asked a Santa Barbara County judge to order prosecutors to return the photographs, fearing they would become public, but were denied.

### **Allegations by La Toya Jackson**



**Jackson's sister [La Toya Jackson](#) in 2010**

On September 2, 1993, as a guest on the [Today](#) show, Jackson's sister [La Toya Jackson](#) expressed support for her brother, stating: "I stand by [Michael] one thousand percent... If you think about it, he has been convicted before a trial." In the same interview, she said she could not tell if the allegations were true. A few weeks later, on the [Maury](#) show, La Toya said Jackson was being convicted by the public without having been charged with any crime. She said there was nothing inappropriate about his relationship with children and that she would never believe such allegations.

On December 8, 1993, La Toya, who had been estranged from the [Jackson family](#) and not seen her brother for several years, said Jackson was a pedophile. She said she had seen checks made out to different boys' families and that Jackson's abuse as a child had turned him into an abuser. She and her then-husband [Jack Gordon](#) also said that Jackson had tried to kidnap and kill her. <sup>[xxxv]</sup><sup>[xxxvi]</sup> On December 9, La Toya repeated her suspicions to [Katie Couric](#) on *Today*: "I do know he'd have boys over all the time and they'd stay in his room for days. Then they would come out ... There'd be another boy and he'd bring someone else but never two at a time."

La Toya said she had proof of Jackson's pedophilia and offered to disclose it for \$500,000. A bidding war between US and UK tabloids began, but fell through when

she did not produce the proof. The Jackson family disowned her. In later years she recanted the allegations, saying she had been forced to make them by her husband. Prior to making the allegations, Gordon had been arrested for assaulting her, and the couple divorced three years later. By 2003, Jackson had forgiven his sister. In 2009, when recanting her 1993 statements to the broadcaster [Barbara Walters](#), she said that Jackson had not been a pedophile and had never indulged in improper relations with a child.

### **Lisa Marie Presley**

According to Chris Cadman, Jackson met singer [Lisa Marie Presley](#) in October 1974, during a [Jackson 5](#) engagement at the [Sahara Tahoe](#). Her father, [Elvis Presley](#), was closing a two-week engagement at the Sahara Tahoe while the Jackson 5 were just about to begin one. In November 1992, Jackson was reconnected with Presley through a mutual friend, and they talked almost every day by telephone. As the abuse accusations became public, he became dependent on Presley for emotional support; she was concerned about his faltering health. She stated, "I believed that he didn't do anything wrong, and that he was being wrongly accused and, yes, I started falling for him. I wanted to save him. I felt that I could do it." She described him in one call as high, incoherent and delusional. He proposed to her over the phone in late 1993, saying, "If I asked you to marry me, would you do it?" They divorced less than two years later.

### **Jackson's health**

Jackson took [painkillers](#) for his scalp surgeries following an accident while filming a [Pepsi](#) commercial in 1984, and became dependent on them to deal with the stress of the allegations. Within a few months of the allegations becoming news, he lost approximately 10 pounds and stopped eating. According to Jackson, he had a tendency to stop eating when "really upset or hurt" and his friend [Elizabeth Taylor](#) had to make him eat: "She took the spoon and would put it into my mouth." He said that he eventually became unconscious and had to be fed intravenously.

While in Mexico City on November 8, 1993, in a court [deposition](#) unrelated to the alleged child abuse, Jackson appeared drowsy, lacked concentration, and slurred while speaking. He said he could not remember the dates of his album releases or the names of people he had worked with, and took several minutes to name some of his recent albums. On November 12, Jackson canceled the remainder of his tour and flew with Taylor and her husband to London. When Jackson arrived at the airport, he collapsed and was rushed to the home of [Elton John](#)'s manager and afterward to a clinic. When he was searched for drugs on entry, 18 vials of medicine were found in a suitcase. Jackson booked the whole fourth floor of the clinic and was administered [Valium](#) to wean him from painkillers. While in the clinic, he took part in group and one-on-one therapy sessions.

On November 15, Jackson's lawyer, [Bert Fields](#), spoke publicly of their last meeting in Mexico City and Jackson's painkiller addiction: "[Michael's] life was in danger if he continued taking these massive quantities of drugs. He was barely able to function adequately on an intellectual level." Fields said a U.S. drug rehabilitation center would not have the privacy Jackson wanted, and that Jackson was not trying to evade



investigation: "If Michael Jackson wanted an excuse to stay out of the United States, all he had to do is stay on his tour." On November 23, Fields resigned from the case.

### **Jackson's response**

On December 22, 1993, Jackson responded to the accusations for the first time via satellite from Neverland Ranch. He denied all the allegations and stated his intent to prove his innocence. He accused the media of manipulating the allegations to "reach their own conclusions", and described the "dehumanizing" police search as "the most humiliating ordeal of my life". On January 5, 1994, a few weeks before the settlement, Jackson gave a five-minute speech at the [26th NAACP Image Awards](#) asserting his innocence and received a standing ovation. During the ceremony, one presenter had included Jackson in a list of names, calling him "Michael (Innocent Until Proven Guilty) Jackson".

### **Media reaction**

Most of the information available on the allegations was released (officially or unofficially) by the prosecution and unchallenged by Jackson. He was largely portrayed as guilty by the media, which used [sensational headlines](#) implying guilt when the content itself did not support the headline. Stories were purchased of his alleged criminal activity, police investigation material was leaked, and unflattering photographs of Jackson were printed.

Two weeks after the allegations were reported, the headline "Michael Jackson: The Curtain Closes" reflected the attitude of most tabloid media. The [New York Post](#) ran the headline "Peter Pan or pervert". *Hard Copy* ran a story stating it had acquired "new documents in the criminal investigation of Michael Jackson, and they are chilling; they contain the name of child movie actor [Macaulay Culkin](#)". In fact, the document stated that Culkin denied being abused by Jackson.

Two tabloid media outlets bought confidential leaked documents from the LAPD for \$20,000. A number of Jackson's former employees—most of whom had worked at Neverland—sold stories which alleged prior sexual misconduct on Jackson's part, instead of reporting their claims to police. One couple asked for \$100,000, claiming that Jackson had sexually caressed Culkin. For a fee of \$500,000, they would also allege that Jackson put his hands down Culkin's pants. Culkin strongly denied the allegation and did so again in court during [Jackson's 2005 trial](#).

When Jackson left the US to go into drug rehabilitation, the [Daily Mirror](#) (UK) held a "Spot the Jacko" contest, offering readers a trip to [Disney World](#) if they could correctly predict where he would appear next. A [Daily Express](#) headline read "Drug treatment star faces life on the run", while a [News of the World](#) headline said Jackson was a [fugitive](#). These tabloids also falsely alleged that Jackson had traveled to Europe to have [cosmetic surgery](#) that would make him unrecognizable. [Geraldo Rivera](#) set up a [mock trial](#), with a jury made up of audience members, even though Jackson had not been charged with a crime.<sup>[LXIX]</sup> A poll at the time, conducted by [A Current Affair](#), found that nearly 75 percent of Americans believed Jackson was telling the truth.



## Lawsuit

On September 14, 1993, Jordan Chandler and his parents filed a lawsuit against Jackson. The lawsuit claimed that Jackson had committed sexual battery, seduction, willful misconduct, intentional infliction of emotional distress, fraud and negligence. In November, Jackson's lawyers asked the case be put on hold for as long as six years or until the criminal case was concluded. Concerns about a civil trial during an ongoing criminal investigation, and prosecutors' access to plaintiffs' civil trial information, stemmed from Jackson's [Fifth Amendment](#) rights. Since two grand juries deemed there was insufficient evidence for criminal charges by the end of the investigation, the prosecution could have been able to form the elements of a case around the defense strategy in the trial, creating a situation akin to [double jeopardy](#).

Superior Court Judge David M. Rothman ordered Jackson's [deposition](#) scheduled before the end of January 1994 but said he might reconsider if Jackson was [indicted](#) on criminal charges. Jackson agreed to be deposed on January 18. His attorneys said he was eager to testify, but also said they might oppose the deposition if criminal charges were filed or were still under consideration on his deposition date. They said if charges were filed, they would want the criminal trial to go first. However, when authorities notified Jackson's lawyers that they expected their investigation to continue at least through February, Jackson's team failed to win a delay of the civil case. Rothman denied the motion to delay the civil proceedings until the criminal investigation had been completed, and set March 21, 1994, as the trial start date.

Pellicano said Chandler's negotiations had been an attempt to extort Jackson. To try to demonstrate this, he produced illicit recordings of his negotiations with Rothman. Illicit recordings are generally not admissible as evidence, but may be used in California where extortion is threatened. Jackson's lawyer [Howard Weitzman](#) turned over the tapes to the district attorney's office.

On December 17, 1993, Rothman allowed the prosecutors to receive information from Jackson's lawyers and approved [discovery](#) information for media disclosure. Both Feldman's and Jackson's camps expressed concerns about Jackson's [right to a fair trial](#) being compromised by publicly discussing discovery results. [Johnnie Cochran](#) and Weitzman, attorneys representing Jackson, argued that investigators were trying to use the suit to advance their criminal investigation, a technique that should not be allowed.

On January 24, 1994, prosecutors announced that they would not bring charges against Chandler for attempted extortion, as Jackson's camp had been slow to report an extortion claim to the police and had tried to negotiate a settlement for several weeks. Chandler had made his settlement demand in early August 1993, and the Jackson camp had filed extortion charges against the Chandler camp in late August. In the extortion investigation, a search warrant was never sought to search the homes and offices of Chandler and Barry Rothman. No grand jury convened when both men refused police interviews. In contrast, the police had searched Jackson's residences solely based on Jordan's allegations, and taken lengths to interview or intimidate witnesses. Weitzman said they had not gone to the police earlier because "It was our hope that this would all go away. We tried to keep it as much in-house as we could."

## Settlement

Jackson's legal team met three times a week at Taylor's home to discuss the case. Eventually, they agreed that Jackson was too sick to endure a lengthy trial and that he should settle out of court. The lawsuit was settled on January 25, 1994, with \$15,331,250 to be held in a [trust fund](#) for Jordan, \$1.5 million for each of his parents, and \$5 million for the family's lawyer, for a total of approximately \$23 million. According to a motion passed to Judge Melville in 2004, "the settlement was for global claims of negligence and the lawsuit was defended by Mr. Jackson's insurance carrier. The [carrier] negotiated and paid the settlement, over the protests of Mr. Jackson and his personal legal counsel."

On January 29, 1994, the [Associated Press](#) reported that Jackson had requested his insurance company, Transamerica Insurance Group (TIG), contribute to the settlement. A lawyer for TIG, Jordan Harriman, had made a "one-time-only" offer to Jackson on January 13 to resolve his claim. Jackson refused that offer but further negotiations followed. Russ Wardrip, a TIG claims analyst, had sent a January 13 registered letter to Jackson's lawyer, Howard Weitzman:

...acts of sexual activity do not constitute [accidental] bodily injury. Further, acts of sexual activity, especially those against a minor, are inherently intentional, wrongful and harmful. Coverage for such acts is precluded by [the] [California Insurance Code](#).

According to Jackson's attorney [Thomas Mesereau](#), Jackson's insurance company was "the source of the settlement amounts", as noted in a 2005 memorandum in [People v. Jackson](#). The memorandum also noted that "an insurance carrier has the right to settle claims covered by insurance where it decides settlement is expedient and the insured may not interfere with nor prevent such settlements", as established by a number of [precedents](#) in California. Defeating the right would involve convincing a court with the power to [overrule](#) the precedent that the earlier decision was either wrongly decided or more often, "clearly" wrong (depending on the criteria of the court) or the court must be convinced to [distinguish](#) the case. That is, to make the ruling narrower than that in the precedent due to some difference in facts between the current and precedent case while supporting the result reached in the earlier case.

In 2004, Mesereau said: "People who intended to earn millions of dollars from [Jackson's] record and music promotions did not want negative publicity from these lawsuits interfering with their profits. Michael Jackson now regrets making these payments. These settlements were entered into with one primary condition – that condition was that Mr. Jackson never admitted any wrongdoing. [He] always denied doing anything wrong ... Mr. Jackson now realizes the advice he received was wrong." Jackson explained why he had settled: "I wanted to go on with my life. Too many people had already been hurt. I want to make records. I want to sing. I want to perform again ... It's my talent. My hard work. My life. My decision." He also wanted to avoid a "[media circus](#)". Mesereau later said Jackson regretted settling.

The settlement cannot be used as evidence of guilt in future civil and criminal cases. In 1994, Larry Feldman said "nobody bought anybody's silence" with the civil settlement.

## Closure of investigation

District Attorney [Gil Garcetti](#) said that the settlement did not affect criminal prosecution and that the investigation was ongoing. Jordan Chandler was interviewed after the settlement by detectives seeking evidence of child molestation, but no criminal charges were filed. On May 2, 1994, the [Santa Barbara County](#) grand jury disbanded without [indicting](#) Jackson, while a [Los Angeles County](#) grand jury continued to investigate the sexual abuse allegations.

On April 11, 1994, the grand jury session in Santa Barbara was extended by 90 days, allowing DA Sneddon to gather more evidence. Prosecution sources said they were frustrated in their grand jury probe, failing to find direct evidence of the molestation charges. The final grand jury disbanded in July without returning an indictment against Jackson.

The Chandlers stopped co-operating with the criminal investigation around July 6, 1994. Until that time, Jordan Chandler had indicated his possible willingness to testify according to prosecutors. The police never pressed criminal charges. Citing a lack of evidence without Jordan's testimony, the state closed its investigation on September 22, 1994. District attorney Sneddon and Lauren Weis, head of the county DA's Sex Crimes Unit, said that ending the investigation did not reflect any lack of faith in the alleged victim's credibility. The entire investigation involved two grand juries and more than 400 people interviewed over a period of 13 months.

Sneddon said several leads were explored which were later discovered to be false. According to the grand juries, the evidence presented by the [Santa Barbara](#) police and the LAPD was not convincing enough to indict Jackson or subpoena him, even though grand juries can indict the accused purely on [hearsay](#) evidence. According to a 1994 report by [Variety](#), a source in contact with the grand juries said that none of the witnesses had produced anything to directly implicate Jackson. According to a 1994 report by [Showbiz Today](#), the grand jurors claimed that "no damaging evidence was heard" and they "did not hear any damaging testimony" during the hearings.

In February 1994, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury convened to assess whether criminal charges should be filed. The Los Angeles County Grand Jury began in March 1994. By 1994 prosecution departments in California had spent \$2 million and convened two [grand juries](#), but Jordan Chandler's allegations could not be [corroborated](#). In September, Sneddon and Garcetti admitted the 18-month investigation had produced no evidence against Jackson. The [FBI files on Michael Jackson](#), released after Jackson's death, also noted that the prosecution had no outstanding leads.

## Aftermath

A week after the settlement in January 1994, L.A. District Attorney Garcetti announced that he supported amending a law that prohibited sexual assault victims from being compelled to testify in criminal proceedings. The amendment, introduced into the state assembly in February, would have immediately allowed Garcetti to compel Jordan Chandler's testimony.

On February 15, 1994, [PBS Frontline](#) aired the documentary *Tabloid Truth: The Michael Jackson Story* about the [tabloid sensationalism](#), more preoccupied with selling papers than reporting an accurate narrative of the scandal. The documentary reported Jackson's housekeepers Mark and Faye Quindoy selling stories about Jackson for money, and bargaining for more money regarding child abuse allegations. They were depicted as untrustworthy. Phillip and Stella LeMarque, another pair of former employees to Jackson, sold a child abuse story to tabloids through pornographic film actor [Paul Barresi](#), who once successfully sold a story to the [National Enquirer](#). At the opportunity of the scandal, Barresi made a taped recording of alleged evidence and told the [Globe](#) that he intended to turn it over to the district attorney. The [Globe](#) and Barresi agreed on \$15000 for his story. [Splash News](#) journalist Kevin Smith said, "A lot of people who claimed to have witnessed Jackson doing this, that or the other—they weren't going to the police first. Their main interest was money, and they would come to journalists who could give them money. So in those circumstances, journalists know more about what happened than the police do."

Three years later, [V́ctor Gutírrez](#) [es] self-published a book on the relationship between Jordan Chandler and Jackson. Gutierrez claimed that the book is based on a diary Jordan had kept at the time and included details of alleged sexual encounters with Jackson. According to German newspaper [Die Tageszeitung](#), Gutierrez attended meetings of [North American Man Boy Love Association](#) (NAMBLA), a group advocating the decriminalization of pedophilia and pederasty, as a reporter in the 1980s. He said the group thought of Jackson as "one of us" and they insisted that the relationship between Jordan and Jackson was romantic.

In 1997, Jackson filed a civil suit against Gutierrez for [slander](#) after the writer claimed that he had a tape of Jackson molesting his nephew Jeremy, son of [Jermaine Jackson](#). The jury ruled in Jackson's favor, awarding him \$2.7 million. Gutierrez fled to Chile after the suit. Jackson's attorney Zia Modabber said, "Jurors told us that they not only wanted to compensate Mr. Jackson and punish Victor Gutierrez, but to send a message that they are tired of tabloids lying about celebrities for money." Jackson also filed a \$100 million lawsuit against [Diane Dimond](#) after she appeared on [KABC](#) morning show *Ken and Barkley* to discuss Gutierrez's alleged tape. After the report was broadcast, Jackson announced he would sue members of the media who "spread vicious lies and rumors about me in their attempts to make money, benefit their careers, sell papers or get viewers to watch their programs." It was dismissed in 1997.

Jordan Chandler [legally emancipated](#) himself from his parents in 1994, at age 14. In 1996, Evan Chandler sued Jackson for around \$60 million, claiming Jackson had breached an agreement never to discuss the case "in his interview with Diane Sawyer and in the lyrics of a song from the [HIStory](#) album". In 1998, at age 18, Jordan filed a complaint against Jackson for the same reason. The arbitrations were consolidated. In 1999, a court ruled in Jackson's favor and threw out the lawsuit. In 2006, Jordan accused his father of attacking him with a [barbell](#), choking him and spraying his face with [mace](#). The charges were dropped. On November 5, 2009, 14 weeks after [Jackson's death](#), Evan Chandler was found dead from [suicide](#).

## Effect on Jackson's career

Jackson's commercial standing and public image declined in the wake of the allegations. The government of [Dubai](#) forbade him from performing in response to an anonymous [pamphlet](#) campaign that attacked him as immoral. Jackson backed out of a deal to create a song and video for the film *[Addams Family Values](#)*, returning an estimated \$5 million, and a brand of fragrances was canceled because of Jackson's drug problems. Jackson completed the video once planned for *Addams Family Values* and released it as *[Ghosts](#)* in 1996, with a framing story about an eccentric maestro who entertains children and is pursued by a bigoted local official. On November 14, 1993, [PepsiCo](#) dropped their nine-year partnership with Jackson, causing some fans to boycott the company. Jackson composed music for the video game *[Sonic the Hedgehog 3](#)*, but left the project and went uncredited, possibly due to the allegations.

Jackson produced a special show for the premium cable network [HBO](#), *For One Night Only*, to be recorded in front of a special invited audience at New York City's [Beacon Theatre](#) for broadcast in December 1995. The shows were canceled after Jackson collapsed at the theater on December 6 during rehearsals. Jackson was admitted overnight to Beth Israel Medical Center North. The shows were never rescheduled. The following year, Jackson began the [HIStory World Tour](#). The only concerts in the USA were two shows at the [Aloha Stadium](#) in [Honolulu, Hawaii](#).

Jackson's album *[HIStory: Past, Present and Future, Book I](#)*, released shortly after the allegations, "creates an atmosphere of paranoia," according to critic [Stephen Thomas Erlewine](#). Its content focuses on the public struggles Jackson went through prior to its production. In the songs "[Scream](#)" and "[Tabloid Junkie](#)", Jackson expresses his anger and hurt at the media. In the ballad "[Stranger in Moscow](#)", he laments his "swift and sudden fall from grace". In "[D.S.](#)", he attacks a character identified as Tom Sneddon, the District Attorney who requested his strip search. Jackson describes the person as a [white supremacist](#) who wanted to "get my ass, dead or alive". Sneddon said: "I have not, shall we say, done him the honor of listening to it, but I've been told that it ends with the sound of a gunshot."

According to *[The Washington Post](#)*, the [O.J. Simpson trial](#) overshadowed Jackson's scandal. A source from the Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said the scandal took "a back seat" once the Simpson case emerged. In 2021, a judge noted that Jackson had earned no money from his image and likeness between 2006 and 2008, and said this demonstrated the effect of the allegations on his career until his death.

## [Further allegations](#)

### 2005 trial

On December 18, 2003, Jackson was charged with seven counts of child sexual abuse and two counts of administering an intoxicating agent to commit a child sexual abuse felony against Gavin Arvizo. Jackson denied the allegations. Sneddon again led the prosecution. The *[People v. Jackson](#)* trial began in [Santa Maria, California](#), on January 31, 2005. The judge allowed testimony about past allegations, including the 1993 case, to establish whether the defendant had a propensity to commit certain



crimes. However, Jordan Chandler left the country to avoid testifying. [Thomas Mesereau](#), Jackson's defense attorney, later said: "The prosecutors tried to get [Chandler] to show up and he wouldn't. If he had, I had witnesses who were going to come in and say he told them it never happened and that he would never talk to his parents again for what they made him say."

June Chandler testified that she had not spoken to her son in 11 years. During her testimony, she claimed that she could not remember being counter-sued by Jackson and that she had never heard of her own attorney. She also said she never witnessed any molestation. Jackson was found not guilty of all 14 charges on June 13, 2005.

Jason Francia, son to a [Neverland Ranch](#) maid (Blanca Francia), testified in 2005 at the criminal trial that Jackson had abused him on several occasions when he was seven to ten years old. According to [The Guardian](#), Francia testified: "'I was wearing shorts,' he said, his voice breaking. 'He reached on my leg and he reached up and into my privates.'" Francia alleged that Jackson continued touching his testicles for several minutes." Francia said that "every time I was being tickled there was some sort of exchange of money", done with the understanding that he would not tell his mother. On [cross-examination](#), Francia acknowledged that in his first 1993 interview he told detectives Jackson had not molested him. He said he had denied being improperly touched by Jackson because he did not want to be embarrassed at school. He said he went into counseling until he was eighteen years old. Mesereau sought to establish that the Francias were goaded into their accusations by overzealous prosecutors and tempted by money offered for media interviews. Jury foreman Paul Rodriguez compared Jason's to Janet Arvizo's erratic behavior on the stand. He said he "just didn't seem that credible", "left too many little loopholes in his statements" and they had a hard time believing him.

### **Posthumous allegations**

In 2013, the dancer and choreographer and [Wade Robson](#), who testified in Jackson's defense at his criminal trial, reversed his position and filed a lawsuit against Jackson's estate, saying Jackson had sexually abused him when Robson was aged between seven and 14. The allegations by Robson and another man, James Safechuck, a child actor in a 1987 Pepsi commercial, are the focus of the 2019 documentary *Leaving Neverland*.

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[Kindly visit these Web Links:](#)

[A] Michael Jackson

<https://www.michaeljackson.com/>

[B] Michael Jackson(1958-2009)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0001391/>



## **[C] List of awards and nominations received by Michael Jackson**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_awards\\_and\\_nominations\\_received\\_by\\_Michael\\_Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_awards_and_nominations_received_by_Michael_Jackson)

## **[D] List of Michael Jackson records and achievements**

This article lists some of the sales and charts records and achievements of [Michael Jackson](#) (1958–2009), an American singer, songwriter, and dancer. Jackson's success during his peak in the 1980s and 1990s included a number of notable statistical accomplishments. He is the most awarded recording artist in the history of [popular music](#)<sup>[1]</sup> and is recognized as the "Most Successful Entertainer of All Time" by [Guinness World Records](#) selling over 500 million records around the world.<sup>[2][3]</sup>

Data for U.S. sales comes largely from [Billboard](#) magazine and the [Recording Industry Association of America](#) (RIAA).

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Michael\\_Jackson\\_records\\_and\\_achievements](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Michael_Jackson_records_and_achievements)

## **Kindly visit to view the Videos**

### **[A] The Best of Michael Jackson - Michael Jackson Greatest Hits [1:40:57]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=07GHdlabCtq>

### **[B] Michael Jackson on Fire Diorama [25:45]**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHi479xN\\_po](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QHi479xN_po)

### **[C] Michael Jackson: What the maid saw inside Neverland | Extra Minutes [50:06]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9I7fUaISvo>

### **[D] My Michael Jackson Collection Vol. 1 [1:08:29]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Df9g9m42aqQ&t=0s>

### **[E] My Michael Jackson Collection Vol. 2 [40:02]**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BilWQKTFzXY>

## [F] Michael Jackson

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5OrDvL9DscpcAstz7JnQGA>

The Official YouTube Channel of The King of Pop - Michael Jackson.

For more info, visit [www.michaeljackson.com](http://www.michaeljackson.com)

### Links



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## Death of Michael Jackson

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death\\_of\\_Michael\\_Jackson](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_of_Michael_Jackson)

### Death of Michael Jackson



Jackson's star on the <a href="#">Hollywood Walk of Fame</a> became a focal point for fans, surrounded by barriers and covered with flowers.	
<b>Date</b>	June 25, 2009; 15 years ago
<b>Time</b>	2:26 p.m. ( <a href="#">Pacific Daylight Time</a> )
<b>Location</b>	<a href="#">Westwood, Los Angeles, California</a> , U.S.
<b>Type</b>	<a href="#">Accidental homicide</a> by acute propofol intoxication
<b>Deaths</b>	<a href="#">Michael Jackson</a>
<b>Convicted</b>	<a href="#">Conrad Robert Murray</a>
<b>Trial</b>	<a href="#">People v. Murray</a>
<b>Verdict</b>	<a href="#">Guilty</a>
<b>Convictions</b>	<a href="#">Involuntary manslaughter</a>
<b>Sentence</b>	4 years in prison ( <a href="#">paroled</a> after 1 year and 11 months)

On June 25, 2009, the American singer [Michael Jackson](#) died of acute [propofol](#) intoxication in Los Angeles, California, at the age of 50. His personal physician, [Conrad Murray](#), said that he found Jackson in his bedroom at his North Carolwood Drive home in the [Holmby Hills](#) area of the city not breathing and with a weak pulse; he administered [cardiopulmonary resuscitation](#) (CPR) to no avail, and security called [9-1-1](#) at 12:21 p.m. [Pacific Daylight Time](#) ([UTC-7](#)). Paramedics treated Jackson at the scene, but he was pronounced dead at the [Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center](#) in [Westwood](#) at 2:26 p.m.

On August 28, 2009, the [Los Angeles County Department of Medical Examiner-Coroner](#) concluded that Jackson's death was a [homicide](#). Jackson had been administered propofol and anti-anxiety benzodiazepines [lorazepam](#) and [midazolam](#) by his doctor. Murray was [convicted](#) of [involuntary manslaughter](#) in November 2011, and was released in 2013 after serving two years of his four-year prison sentence with time off for good behavior.

At the time of his death, Jackson had been preparing for a series of comeback concerts, [This Is It](#), due to begin in July 2009 in London, United Kingdom. Following his death there were unprecedented surges of Internet traffic and a spike in sales of his music. A [televised](#)

[memorial service](#), held at the Staples Center (later renamed to [Crypto.com Arena](#)) in Los Angeles, had an estimated 2.5 billion viewers. In 2010, [Sony Music Entertainment](#) signed a US\$250 million deal with Jackson's estate to retain distribution rights to his recordings until 2017 and to release seven posthumous albums of unreleased material over the following decade, but only two were ever released.



Jackson was taken by ambulance to the [Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center](#) on June 25 where he arrived at 1:14 p.m. and was pronounced dead at 2:26 p.m.



Murray practiced out of the Armstrong Clinic in Houston. The clinic was raided during an investigation of Murray in July 2009.





Michael Jackson's initial death certificate, issued pending toxicology reports.



The amendment form issued by the coroner for his death certificate, after toxicology reports became available. The cause is changed from "deferred" to "acute propofol intoxication" and the ruling of "Homicide" is added.



Jackson's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame became a focal point for public grief.



Fans visiting the makeshift memorial set up outside the Neverland Ranch entrance shortly after Jackson's death



During the second leg of Madonna's Sticky & Sweet Tour in July 2009, she and a Jackson impersonator performed a medley of Jackson's songs while photos of Jackson's were shown on a screen behind them.



A worldwide audience of an estimated 2.5 to 3 billion people saw coverage of the memorial held in the Staples Center, pictured here during the memorial service.

## **Burial**

According to reports, Jackson's burial was originally scheduled for August 29, 2009 (which would have been his 51st birthday).<sup>[208]</sup> His service and burial were held at Glendale's Forest Lawn Memorial Park on September 3, 2009. The burial was attended by his family members, his first wife Lisa Marie Presley, and his friends Macaulay Culkin, Chris Tucker, Quincy Jones, Eddie Murphy, and Elizabeth Taylor, among others. The service began with Jackson's three children placing a golden crown on his casket.

Jackson's funeral cost \$1 million, including \$590,000 for Jackson's crypt; \$11,716 for guest invitations; \$30,000 for security and luxury cars; \$16,000 for the florist; and \$15,000 for the funeral planner. Jackson's family planned the funeral. Howard Weitzman, a lawyer for the estate executors, said that Jackson's "bigger than life" lifespan matched the lavishness of the funeral.

Jackson is interred in the Holly Terrace section in the Great Mausoleum of Forest Lawn Memorial Park, a cemetery in Glendale, California. The mausoleum is a secure facility and is not accessible to



the general public or to the media, except on an extremely limited basis. His unmarked [crypt](#), which is partially visible at the tinted entrance of the Holly Terrace mausoleum, is covered in flowers fans leave, which are placed by security guards outside the crypt. The family had considered burying Jackson at [Neverland Ranch](#). However, some family members objected to the site, saying that the ranch had been tainted by the 2005 trial and police raids of the property. Also, the owners of the ranch would have had to go through a permitting process with county and state government before establishing a cemetery at the site. In July 2010, security was increased at the mausoleum due to vandalism by fans leaving messages such as "Keep the dream alive" and "Miss you sweet angel" in permanent ink.

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*"The meaning of life is contained in every single expression of life."*

- Born Michael Joseph Jackson on Aug. 29, 1958, in Gary, Indiana. Died June 25, 2009
- While Michael Jackson had a Top 5 album and No. 1 hit on his hands with his second solo album, 1972's [Ben](#) and its title track, it was 1979's chart-topper "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" from his third album, [Off The Wall](#), that cemented Jackson in the pop stratosphere. Released in 1982, [Thriller](#) marked his first No. 1 album, and it stayed there for an unprecedented 37 weeks.
- Jackson earned his first career GRAMMY at the [22nd GRAMMY Awards](#) when "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" won for Best R&B Vocal Performance, Male. Jackson graced the

GRAMMY stage once in 1988 at the 38th GRAMMYS, performing "The Way You Make Me Feel" and "Man In The Mirror."

- At the 26th GRAMMY Awards in 1984, Jackson became the first artist to win eight GRAMMYS in one night, a feat that has only been tied one other time when Santana won eight GRAMMYS for 2000.
- Jackson was honored with The Recording Academy's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010, and the prestigious GRAMMY Legend Award in 1993.
- Michael Jackson is best remembered for his 1985 African famine relief efforts through the song "We Are the World" and the charity USA For Africa. He also introduced millions to the missions of the Elizabeth Taylor AIDS Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

### Note:

Kindly visit the Web Link

<https://www.grammy.com/artists/michael-jackson/13202>

to know all **OTHER** awards.

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Michael Jackson's Net Worth 2025:

**The King of Pop**

<https://www.finance-monthly.com/2025/01/michael-jacksons-net-worth-2025-the-king-of-pop/>

**M**ichael Jackson, often referred to as the "King of Pop," was one of the most influential musicians in history. His extraordinary career spanned decades, during which he broke records, reinvented music, and changed the way the world viewed pop culture. Even after his

untimely death in 2009, Michael Jackson's legacy continues to shape the music industry, and his wealth remains a subject of fascination. This article will delve into Michael Jackson's net worth, his personal life, real estate holdings, and his incredible career, along with answering key questions about his wealth and legacy.

Michael Jackson's wealth fluctuated throughout his life due to his career choices, business investments, and the ups and downs of his financial situation. At the time of his death in 2009, his net worth was estimated at around \$500 million. However, his estate has earned substantial income since then, making it difficult to pinpoint exactly how much he would be worth today.

In the years following his death, Michael Jackson's estate has earned hundreds of millions of dollars through music royalties, merchandising, and various ventures. According to Forbes, in 2018 alone, Michael Jackson's estate earned \$400 million, making him the highest-earning celebrity that year. His music catalog, including hits like "Thriller," "Billie Jean," and "Beat It," continues to generate significant income, and his legacy remains profitable through licensing, streaming, and posthumous album releases.

Considering the continuous earning power of his estate and the appreciation of assets like his music catalog and property, Michael Jackson's net worth today is likely well above the \$1 billion mark. While the exact figure is hard to pinpoint, his wealth continues to grow, largely due to the lasting impact of his artistry.

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**Michael Jackson**

**Artist · 117,471 Listeners**

<https://www.jiosaavn.com/artist/michael-jackson-bio/,HQNUyOSPaw>

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Jackson's childhood home in Gary, Indiana, pictured in March 2010



Michael Jackson (center) as a member of the Jackson 5 in 1972. The group were among the first African American performers to attain a crossover following



Jackson (left) and Quincy Jones (right) appear with Diana Ross (center) on her upcoming special, "Diana", in March 1981



Jackson in a press photo for *Thriller* in 1983.



The sequined jacket and white glove worn by Jackson at Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever.



The Jacksons performing during their Victory Tour at the Arrowhead Stadium in 1984





Jackson signing a "We Are the World" poster in 1985



Jackson during the Bad tour in 1987, the highest grossing solo concert tour of the 1980s



Jackson performing during the Dangerous World Tour in Bucharest in 1992



Jackson at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival for the premiere of Michael Jackson's Ghosts



Jackson performing "Billie Jean" at the Michael Jackson: 30th Anniversary Celebration show in 2001



Jackson in Las Vegas, 2003



Jackson and his son Blanket in Disneyland Paris, 2006



An aerial view of part of Jackson's 2,800-acre (11 km<sup>2</sup>) Neverland Valley Ranch near Los Olivos, California, showing the rides



Fans placed flowers and notes on Jackson's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on the day of his death



Jackson's unmarked crypt at the end of the Sanctuary of Ascension in the Holly Terrace of the Great Mausoleum, Forest Lawn Glendale



Fans visiting the makeshift memorial set up outside the Neverland Ranch entrance shortly after Jackson's death.



Jackson at the White House in 1984, where he was described as "one of the most talented, most popular and most exciting superstars" by President Ronald Reagan.

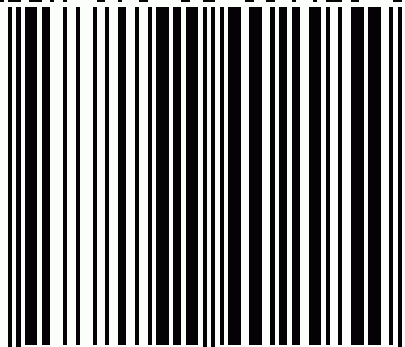








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